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Concluding Paragraph Connection Decade Paper

Sequential Paragraph 19 November 2009

Thesis Statement

Point of View

The 90’s – All That and a Bag of Chips

Whazzup? How’s it hanging, homeboy? Is everything good in the hood? Have you gotten, like, jacked up lately? If you weren’t around in the 1990’s or didn’t follow pop culture, the prior sentences may sound like a foreign language to you. But, believe it or not, this was fairly normal conversational matter. I, personally, was too young to remember the early 90’s, but I have some fond memories of the late 90’s and many of its creations still live on today and are insanely popular. The 1990’s were a time when everybody tried to speak “jive.” Television shows started to break a lot of controversial boundaries, and movies were produced that grew to *titanic* popularity. The 90’s may often slip into the shadows when people discuss their favorite decade, but it’s definitely an extremely important and influential time period.

Homeslice. My bad. Off the heasy. Oh snap. Going postal. They may all sound like ridiculous lyrics to a horrible rap song, but these were extremely common sayings in the 1990’s, meaning such simple expressions as friend, I’m sorry, unbelievable, darn it, and going off on a tangent. People certainly had a different way of speaking in the 90’s. Younger people, high school and college students especially, became enamored with speaking what seemed like a new language. Called either “jive” or “Ebonics”, a language that was once thought to belong in the ghetto and rap world, had now seeped into everyday living and the population was spouting off all sorts of nonsense, such as “Hey fats!” and “Man, that’s so clean!” Some of these language trends still exist today, such as inserting “like” haphazardly into sentences and saying “duh!” or “psyche!” at the end of any phrase. Rap and hip-hop music gained lots of popularity in the 1990’s, which probably led to this very odd way of speaking. Call it whatever you wish, but these sayings and expressions shaped a generation.

The 1990’s were a big decade for television. Many shows were created that are still filming new episodes to this day and hundreds of repeats air daily. Dozens of the shows became instant classics and gained many people’s seal of approval. In fact, a lot of people’s favorite programs originated in the 1990’s. Most shows that were produced during these ten years appear to be in the form of comedy/sitcom or science fiction. Both slapstick humor and sci-fi adventures were stupendously popular with the generation. Considered one of the biggest successes in television is “Seinfeld”, which started production in 1990 and ran for eight years. Millions of people worldwide adore this show, and it’s what comes to many people’s minds first when they think of a sitcom. Though not nearly as popular, programs like “Frasier” and “Home Improvement”, brought an infinite number of laughs into people’s homes throughout the years. The complete opposite of comedy, drama, also had its successes. “Dawson’s Creek”, quite possibly most well known for its theme song, was much like the “Gossip Girl” and “The Hills” of today. As mentioned earlier, sci-fi was insanely popular during this time. “X-Files”, created in 1993, had a massive fan base. Techies and geeks of the world could unite under one show that pertained to all their viewing needs.”X-Files”-mania still exists to this very day. In 2008, the popular movie “X-Files: I Want to Believe” was released and people rushed out to buy tickets. The movie was a flop, but the huge hype surrounding it proves that this program has yet to die out. Television shows also crossed a very, very controversial boundary at this time, as well. There’s a fine line between a funny show and a show that’s downright inappropriate. Before, there were things that could never be said on television and some comedy shows tried to break down this barrier. The most successful was “South Park”, which followed four foul-mouthed children around their quiet town in Colorado. Many people proclaim that the show is entirely outrageous and should pulled off the air, but new episodes are still released today. Other shows followed suit, such as “Family Guy” and “Beavis and Butthead.”

Out of the top twenty-five highest-grossing movies in America, five came from the 1990s. It may seem like a small and trivial number, but these figures stretch across the entire twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Also, when you consider that these movies have to compete against the amazing computer-animated technology of today and the highest-grossing movie in the entire world came from 1997, you have to give this spectacular decade credit where credit is due. The 90’s produced cinematic masterpieces, such as “Jurassic Park” and “Forrest Gump”, but none shared the same success as “Titanic.” The film, starring the massive, ill-fated boat, is the number one highest-grossing movie in the entire world, clocking in at $1,835,300,000. Though filmed towards the end of the decade, the technology was still not up to par with todays, so it’s absolutely astounding that this movie has been able to hold its place, high atop the rankings, throughout the past twelve years. But, it wasn’t just live action movies that got worldwide attention. Disney’s “The Lion King”, from 1994, became an instant classic and is still celebrated by children around the world today. The animated feature received two Academy Awards, both for its inspiring and beautiful score.

In conclusion, the 1990’s were a time when things were constantly changing and on the move. The youth had managed to create a language that still can’t always be decoded, many classic television programs were on the air, and a couple of the greatest movies of our time were released. I was only around for the last six and a half years of it, but I certainly remember a good deal of that time. While I never watched “Titanic” in the 90’s, it’s now my favorite movie. The 90’s broke down a lot of conformist walls and set out to create new grounds for media and pop culture. Without the 90’s, it’s quite possible the world would be much different that as we know it to be today.